Introduction

No one has ever been told becoming a nurse is going to be easy. College freshmen are immediately put into demanding and challenging courses. The Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School plans to prepare 134 inspiring nurses in every aspect possible so they are willing to accept this well-known challenge. Students are instructed further than most in the sciences and to a higher degree of math. Students must be well aware of the longer school times and possible requirement of summer classes. This charter is school is one of the first of its kind and is receiving a lot of recognition. Many nurse leaders have visited and observe the school since it opened in 2011 hoping for good results that way nursing education can be expanded in further ways. With high expectations, students are pushed to their maximum capabilities.

Student Achievement

As a new school that is being highly regarded amongst the country, it is crucial to excel in academics. Compared to Rhode Island, this nursing charter school is considered ‘leading’ according to InfoWorks. This school is given an overall score of 74.6 points whereas Rhode Island state as a whole was given 56.0 out of 100 points. When 11th graders were measured individually in various subjects, the school is below the average Rhode Island student. In 2012-2013, 19% of the students were classified as proficient in math. The state had 34% of its students as proficient. That is a vast difference but it does not call for concern yet because the nursing school is still relatively new (opened in 2011) and in one year their scores increased from 4% to 19% where in Rhode Island there was only a 4% increase in one year. The same concept applies to reading; the charter school is increasing dramatically (by 21%) but Rhode Island is slightly increasing (by 3%). It is evidently seen that this school is still new but rapidly evolving and preparing their students better and better each year for standardized tests.

Faculty

Being a nurse requires a significant amount of complex material that is crucial to understand and be able to apply to real life experiences. This nursing charter school provides well qualified instructors. They hire college level professors and certified secondary level educators. In addition, nursing practioners are hired to teach curriculum as well as from past experiences. The instructors work within their smaller classes demonstrating techniques and clarifying questions the students may pose. The school offers opportunities to earn college credit and hands on experiences that no other school could make available. Once they have moved on beyond the school, career opportunities are presented to these exceptional students.

Families and Communities

Families that overcome the Providence area are typically poor or of the lower middle class. Over 80% of the students that attend the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School are eligible for subsidized lunches according to InfoWorks. The state of Rhode Island’s average for reduced lunches is 46%. The reason this charter school could be so high is because a vast numbers of residents that live in Providence are currently in financial troubles and contribute to the poverty rate. The school does not offer bilingual services yet so therefore 0% of students receive ESL services whereas 6% of Rhode Island students need the assistance. The nursing institute does however off special education services but only 4% of students require the additional help.

Conclusion

The Rhode Island Nurses Institute is a work in progress but is clearly setting high expectations for it. The school offers a wide variety of opportunities and resources for future nurses to take advantage of. They are taught by the most qualified professors and challenged in and outside the classroom every day. Even with families in hard times, they are helped out and provided for while working hard for their aspiring future.

Cites:

RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School. InfoWorks; Rhode Island Education Data Reporting! Infoworks.ride.ri.gov/school. <http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/school/ri-nurses-institute-middle-college-charter-high-school/accountability/accountability-summary/2012/1>

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